CARBON SEQUESTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CSAC)
WORK PLAN
Approved October 26, 2004

Purpose:

Position the citizens of Wyoming to take leadership and full advantage of carbon sequestration opportunities that benefit the environment and are financially sustainable.

Goal:

To develop, quantify and recommend land use and land management practices that enhance stored carbon and provide environmental, social and economic benefits to the citizens of Wyoming.

Objectives:

1) Recommend policies and programs that augment the ability of Wyoming cropland, rangeland and forestland owners and producers to implement management practices that enhance carbon storage and provide co-benefits including, but not limited to, improved soil quality, site productivity and associated environmental benefits and services.

2) Provide public outreach through educational materials, workshops, seminars and demonstration projects on croplands, rangelands and forestlands.

3) Identify and support research to better understand and quantify the effect of management practices and economic viability of carbon sequestration on croplands, rangelands and forestlands.

Action Plan:

Task 1: (Objectives 1, 2 and 3) Hire a Carbon Sequestration Advisory Program Coordinator (CSAPC) to procure supplemental funding to facilitate the CSAC Work Plan.

Strategy: The CSAC will identify sources and obtain funding to assist with support of the Program Coordinator and tasks identified in the Work Plan. The CSACP will also be expected to assist CSAC in securing funding to support his/her salary.

Task 2: (Objective 2) Develop a public education and outreach program explaining the environmental and financial benefits of carbon sequestration.

Strategy: Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) in coordination with the CSAC and cooperating agencies will develop a website, brochures, workshops, seminars and extension materials.

Task 3: (Objectives 1, 2 and 3) Continue current and develop additional demonstration projects to quantify carbon storage potential and illustrate the environmental and financial benefits of carbon sequestration on croplands, rangelands and forestlands.

Strategy: USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS)), University of Wyoming (UW), and CSAC in cooperation with landowners will continue demonstration projects on northern mixed-grass prairie (effects of herbicide and interseeding practices) and Ponderosa Pine forestlands (effects of management) that are evaluating carbon storage potentials. Identify new demonstration projects for shrublands and croplands.

Task 4: (Objectives 1 and 3) Develop a statewide best management practice (BMP) guide that will identify, describe and provide an economic evaluation of BMPs that can be used to sequester carbon.

Strategy: UW, USDA-ARS, NRCS and USFS, the Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD) and CSAC, in conjunction with the National Agricultural Statistical Services (NASS), will develop a statewide carbon sequestration BMPs guide for land management practices on croplands, rangelands and forestlands. Much of this information has already been compiled.

Task 5: (Objectives 1 and 3) Develop an economic assessment of statewide carbon sequestration potentials.

Strategy: UW, USDA-ARS, NRCS, WSFD and NASS will utilize existing soil and vegetation databases along with current published estimates of carbon sequestration to determine economic benefits associated with different BMPs in rangelands, croplands, and forestlands.

Task 6: (Objective 1) CSAC will continue to improve and expand the Wyoming Carbon Sequestration Program.

Strategy: WDA and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) will facilitate interactions with other states to learn about their carbon sequestration programs and evaluate potential cooperation.